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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
11)
12 Plaintiff,) 2:23-CR-00045-RMP-1
13 v.) SENTENCING MEMORANDUM
14)
15 AMY KATHERIN RIGGS,)
16 Defendant.)

17 Plaintiff, United States of America, by and through, Vanessa R. Waldref, United
18 States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, and Caitlin Baunsgard, Assistant
19 United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, submits the following
20 Sentencing Memorandum.
21

22 **A. PRE-SENTENCE INVESTIGATION REPORT:**

23 As noted in its review of the PSIR (ECF. 43) and in the Plea Agreement, the
24 United States is not recommending the Court impose a 2-level enhancement for
25 maintaining a ‘stash house’ pursuant to USSG §2D1.1(b)(12).
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1 1. *Stash House* – §2D1.1(b)(12):

2 Judge Dimke recently noted in the sentencing for *U.S. v. Bejar-Cardenas* (4:23-
3 CR-60001-MKD) that this enhancement is not equitably applied in this District –
4 meaning, only recently the United States and the PSIR are recommending this
5 enhancement. That is certainly not to say that change cannot be made. However,
6 Judge Dimke determined that unlike other guideline enhancements (*i.e.* dangerous
7 weapon), this ‘stash house’ enhancement requires more of a particularized
8 involvement of a defendant to be applicable versus other enhancements which are to
9 be more generally applied and subject to greater joint liability principles.
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12 Here, the organization the Defendant worked with unequivocally operated
13 many stash houses in the Spokane, Washington area. The evidence is also clear that
14 the Defendant would go to those various stash houses to pick up her drug order, or on
15 occasions a runner would deliver it to her. However, it does not appear that this
16 Defendant was responsible for their operation or endorsed their use with her own
17 conduct. Based on the totality of the circumstances, the United States is not
18 recommending this particular ‘stash house’ enhancement to this Defendant. The
19 United States maintains the Defendant’s adjusted Base Offense Level should be 39.
20 With a Criminal History Category I, her advisory guideline range would be 262-327
21 months.
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1 The Defendant has raised several objections to the PSIR, which the United States
2 disputes.

3 2. *Possession of a Dangerous Weapon – § 2D1.1(b)(1)*:
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5 The Defendant contends a 2-level enhancement for possession of a dangerous
6 weapon should not be applied to her. *See ECF*, 42 at p. 1-2. As noted in the
7 Addendum, there were multiple firearms connected with this offense. Two firearms
8 appear particularly appropriate to hold the Defendant accountable for.
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10 a) Firearm in Her Bag in Her Vehicle:
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12 As noted in the PSIR, a firearm was recovered from the Defendant's vehicle, in
13 her bag. The evidence in this case shows the Defendant was one of the largest and
14 most consistent customers of this drug trafficking organization, operating at a
15 kilogram-level of heroin, multiple pound-level of methamphetamine, and 5,000-
16 10,000-level fentanyl pills at a time. *See e.g.* PSIR at p. 9 ¶¶ 31-37. Multiple search
17 warrants corroborate the fact this organization can consistently move that level of
18 drugs, despite multiple law enforcement interventions.
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21 In the midst of her drug trafficking activities, a traffic stop was conducted on
22 her vehicle, and a search warrant was executed in April 2022. Of note, in the purse
23 she advised was hers, there were \$13,000 in U.S. Currency¹ (noted, there is no record
24 of the Defendant being lawfully employed). In the center console / cup holder area of
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27 ¹ The State of Washington forfeited this money as drug proceeds after a contested
28 administrative hearing.

1 the vehicle, the cell phone she utilized during her attempt to obtain the stolen drugs
2 back from Brady BAUGHMAN (*infra*) was located. In a Michael Kohr's brand
3 fashion backpack in the vehicle, a firearm was located, along with paperwork in the
4 Defendant's name, as well as the name of her paramour, Jody WALLETTE. There
5 was no other individual in the vehicle. The connection between firearms and drug
6 trafficking, to include the need for protection while carrying around a large amount of
7 drug proceeds, it well-recognized. Further, as noted by 2 separate cooperating
8 defendants, as well as her own text messages, the Defendant was an "enforcer" for the
9 group, who was willing to go collect drug debts from individuals who owed money to
10 the leader in Mexico. Certainly, a firearm is a tool of that trade.

14 Based on this factual presentment, the United States submits a 2-level
15 enhancement is appropriate.

17 b) Firearm Utilized to During Retribution of Drug Robbery:

18 In addition to the firearm in her possession during the April 2022 traffic stop,
19 the Defendant could also receive the 2-level enhancement from the firearm possession
20 during the February 2022 robbery. As noted in the PSIR, Brady BAUGHMAN² stole
21 approximately 16 pounds of methamphetamine and about 50,000 fentanyl laced pills
22 from two runners for the organization. The leader in Mexico was immediately
23 notified and, despite numerous other individuals who the leader could call on, he
24 immediately dispatched the Defendant to reacquire his product. The leader gained
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28 ² 2:22-CR-72-MKD

1 access to an electronic device that was in BAUGHMAN's vehicle and provided the
2 Defendant with updated location information for BAUGHMAN's vehicle. Telephone
3 toll data shows the Defendant was in contact with the leader at least 74 times during
4 this event.
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6 As revealed by her own text messages, the Defendant recruited others, to
7 include Daniel SKJOLD, to help track down BAUGHMAN. In the below text
8 messages, the Defendant (509) 629-0831 is texting with the leader in Mexico
9 (international number 5.26675E and his 509 number), who is providing her the
10 location data from the iPad that is in BAUGHMAN's vehicle. The Defendant is also
11 texting with others she is recruiting for this "lick" (*i.e.* robbery), which she will pay
12 for in drugs (*i.e.* "Jordans" and "waters").
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1	2/6/2022 21:20	5.26675E+11	15096290831	5512 n sotherinzham hill
2	2/6/2022 21:20	5.26675E+11	15096290831	Thats were the live tablet is
3	2/6/2022 21:20	5.26675E+11	15096290831	5512 N Fotheringham
4	2/6/2022 21:23	15096290831	15098637158	U want this lick right now?
5	2/6/2022 21:23	15096290831	15098637158	50 Jordan's an 25 waters
6	2/6/2022 21:24	15096290831	15098637158	Or I'll try anyone
7	2/6/2022 21:24	15096290831	15098637158	Someone else
8	2/6/2022 21:24	15096290831	15098637158	It's super time sensitive
9	2/6/2022 21:31	5.26675E+11	15096290831	He's at 2705 W Columbia!!
10	2/6/2022 21:32	15096290831	5.26675E+11	On my way!
11	2/6/2022 21:39	15096290831	5.26675E+11	What kind of car is it
12	2/6/2022 21:41	15096290831	15092301747	Someone is coming up to the room let them in please
13	2/6/2022 21:41	15092301747	15096290831	Yes ma'am
14	2/6/2022 21:42	15096290831	5.26675E+11	Hello
15	2/6/2022 21:43	15096290831	5.26675E+11	And who's car is it ?? Is it your car
16	2/6/2022 21:48	5.26675E+11	15096290831	Tan ed buick
17	2/6/2022 21:48	5.26675E+11	15096290831	
18	2/6/2022 21:49	5.26675E+11	15096290831	Its hes car
19	2/6/2022 21:50	15096290831	5.26675E+11	Nope
20	2/6/2022 21:50	15096290831	5.26675E+11	Nope
21	2/6/2022 21:50	15096290831	5.26675E+11	I can't call you
22	2/6/2022 21:52	5.26675E+11	15096290831	4018 w rowan ave 99205
23	2/6/2022 21:52	15098504089	15096290831	Just call me back on this number when u want me to call you
24	2/6/2022 21:52	15096290831	15095087959	New addresss
25	2/6/2022 21:52	5.26675E+11	15096290831	5611 n driscoll blvd 99205
26	2/6/2022 21:55	5.26675E+11	15096290831	5611 n driscoll blvd 99205
27	2/6/2022 21:54	15096290831	15095087959	4018 w rowan ave 99205
28	2/6/2022 21:54	15096290831	15095087959	New addresss again
	2/6/2022 21:54	15096290831	15095087959	He's moving fast and your hella slow
	2/6/2022 21:54	15096290831	15095087959	U want this or not?
	2/6/2022 21:54	15096290831	15098504089	One mile away
	2/6/2022 22:26	15096290831	15095087959	Going up belt street
	2/6/2022 22:27	15096290831	15095087959	Where the fuck are u
	2/6/2022 22:28	15095087959	15096290831	I'm about to get off the freeway on Maple right now
	2/6/2022 22:33	15095087959	15096290831	Where you at right now
	2/6/2022 22:33	15095087959	15096290831	I'm about to turn on Northwest Boulevard I'm going to
	2/6/2022 22:33	15096290831	15095087959	Dally street
	2/6/2022 22:33	15096290831	15095087959	Dalke

1	2/6/2022 22:36	15095087959	15096290831	Going over at the nom nom
2	2/6/2022 22:39	15095087959	15096290831	Where am I going
3	2/6/2022 22:43	15096290831	15095087959	Cops got the car
4	2/6/2022 22:47	15095087959	15096290831	What the fuck where you at
5	2/6/2022 22:47	15096290831	15098504089	Address please
6	2/6/2022 22:47	15096290831	15098504089	Time sensitive
7	2/6/2022 22:48	15096290831	15095087959	Cops got the car
8	2/6/2022 22:49	15095087959	15096290831	So it's over or what where's the people at
9	2/6/2022 22:49	15096290831	15095087959	I'm waiting on an addresss to where he lives
10	2/6/2022 22:50	15095087959	15096290831	I am sitting in the parking lot at O'Reilly's on Rowan and the one ways
11	2/6/2022 22:50	15098504089	15096290831	Ok
12	2/6/2022 22:49	15096290831	15095087959	They took off on foot
13	2/6/2022 22:49	15096290831	15095087959	But my buddy said they did stop by there house first
14	2/6/2022 22:50	15095087959	15096290831	Yeah we need to get him let's go there
15	2/6/2022 22:50	15551110000	15096290831	
16	2/6/2022 22:50	15551110000	15096290831	
17	2/6/2022 22:50	15098504089	15096290831	5608 n alberta st 99205
18	2/6/2022 22:50	15095087959	15096290831	Give me the address and give me the guy's name

During this pursuit, the Defendant's Range Rover (occupied by SKJOLD and the Defendant) was observed on camera locating BAUGHMAN's tan Buick. Muzzle flashes from a firearm can then be seen coming out the driver's side window in the direction of BAUGHMAN's vehicle. Per cell phone tower data, the Defendant's cell phone (the one she is texting on) was at the same locations as the Range Rover that evening, confirming she was in the vehicle. While it is unknown at this time who pulled the trigger, there is no question the Defendant was in the vehicle. The messages continued:

1	2/6/2022 22:50	15095087959	15096290831	Phone number all the info you can I'll have that fucker within the hour
2	2/6/2022 22:54	15098504089	15096290831	The other adress is
3	2/6/2022 22:52	15098504089	15096290831	5611 n driscoll blvd 99205
4	2/6/2022 22:52	15096290831	15095087959	Brady baughman
5	2/6/2022 22:52	15096290831	15095087959	Windows to the car got shot out some how
6	2/6/2022 22:52	15096290831	15095087959	
7	2/6/2022 22:54	15098504089	15096290831	And also the 3rd one is
8	2/6/2022 22:55	15098504089	15096290831	3006 w rowan ave 99205
9	2/6/2022 22:53	15096290831	15098504089	5611 n driscoll blvd 99205
10	2/6/2022 22:55	15095087959	15096290831	Okay will you meet me on the street right now so I can talk to you face to face real quick
11	2/6/2022 23:02	15095087959	15096290831	I'm at the Conoco on Maple and Rowan
12	2/6/2022 22:53	15096290831	15098504089	No no alberta an the one in 3rd
13	2/6/2022 22:54	15096290831	15095087959	5608 n alberta st 99205
14	2/6/2022 22:54	15095087959	15096290831	Is that where you're at or is that his house
15	2/6/2022 22:55	15096290831	15095087959	Brady bailed from the car cops found back pack with some but I don't think all of it
16	2/6/2022 22:55	15096290831	15095087959	No I'm on east side cause on marshal
17	2/6/2022 22:55	15096290831	15095087959	At the marshal apt
18	2/6/2022 23:02	15095087959	15096290831	Okay can I come over there and talk to you real quick
19	2/6/2022 22:57	15096290831	15095087959	3006 w rowan ave 99205
20	2/6/2022 23:01	15098504089	15096290831	I bet brady is at female reggie house on the corner boone and adams
21	2/6/2022 23:04	15098504089	15096290831	I think thats were he left the stuff
22	2/6/2022 23:07	15098504089	15096290831	Female reggie is on of his good friends
23	2/6/2022 23:07	15098504089	15096290831	Im getting the exact adress
24	2/6/2022 23:06	15096290831	15095087959	Hurry up
25	2/6/2022 23:06	15096290831	15095087959	Hurry
26	2/6/2022 23:06	15096290831	15095087959	We are gonna go to Boone an adams
27	2/6/2022 23:06	15096290831	15098504089	K I'll head there
28	2/6/2022 23:08	15096290831	15098504089	Kk but did he stop by there when he came back to town

In the United States' opinion, this jointly undertaken activity would warrant a 2-level dangerous weapon enhancement for this Defendant (as well as the credible use of violence enhancement that is not contested).

B. SENTENCING RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the totality of the circumstances, the United States is recommending a 180-month term of incarceration with a 5-year term of supervised release to follow. The United States respectfully submits such a sentence would be sufficient but not greater than necessary to accomplish the goals of sentencing and achieve an appropriate balance of the 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) factors.

While the Defendant has no criminal history, she made the unfortunate choice to involve herself in the trafficking of an obscene, egregious amount of heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl into the community. If that was not harmful enough, she established herself as a “go-to” enforcer for the leader in Mexico. She also facilitated the continuation of the conspiracy by providing intel to the leader in Mexico about organization members who were arrested in order to ensure the success of the venture. In other words, she jumped in with both feet (and then some). She had multiple opportunities to get out, to be a mother to her daughter. Instead, she chose these people over, and over, and over again.

The Defendant’s own words say it best. The following text messages are between the Defendant ((509) 629-0831) and the mid-level manager for the organization (“CD”) who dealt with logistics of bringing workers and the drugs up from Mexico ((509) 418-6452).³

1/28/2022	14:51	15096290831	15094186452	Look I'm not tryn to be mean but u gotta listen .. I've been in this town a long time .. I'm
1/28/2022	14:51	15096290831	15094186452	jus tryn to keep everyone safe and no one wants to listen I told
1/28/2022	14:51	15096290831	15094186452	tawny to move out of the house to many people sending money to Mexico
1/28/2022	14:51	15096290831	15094186452	They Steven about that too
1/28/2022	14:52	15096290831	15094186452	He's gonna roll an I'll bet u Jose will too cause he should have been on the roster by now .. Steven said he pointed out Jose phone

Of note, this text exchange occurred just after DEA arrested individuals fleeing from two organization stash houses in this case:

³ The CD has pled guilty to this role and admitted to participation in these text conversations with the Defendant.

- Yancarlos ARREDONDO⁴ was arrested as he ran from the Maxwell St. stash house with a large bag of drugs, money, and guns. This was also the residence of Zach WOOD⁵, who was not present at the time of the execution of the warrant. Controlled buys from WOOD were conducted out of the Maxwell St. residence; and
- Jorge VALENZUELA-MEDRANO⁶ (aka “Jose”) and Steven DAANEN were arrested as they hurriedly drove away from a stash house located on the South Hill, with a big bag of drugs, money, and guns. Of note, the South Hill stash house was not searched at that time as DAANEN and VALENZUELA were caught with an enormous bag of drugs, guns, cell phones, and currency. DAANEN was ultimately released.

In the messages, the Defendant indicates to CD that she is trying to “keep everyone safe” and believes that DAANEN and VALENZUELA were going to “roll” (*i.e.* cooperate), based on the fact she had not seen them on the jail roster yet.

CD responded that she/he was going to lay low for awhile and would reach out via text message. The Defendant did not follow CD’s lead. Rather, she continued texting with CD:

1/28/2022 14:54	15096290831	15094186452	I'm guessing they got both the Mexicans at least an idk where Zack is at or his Gurl and when they catch up to Steven again probably him too
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The CD affirmed law enforcement arrested both “Mexicans” (referring to ARREDONDO and VALENZUELA by context).

This law enforcement intervention, however, did not dissuade the Defendant’s conduct or diminish her zeal for participation in this venture. Rather, she in essence

⁴ 2:22-CR-18-RMP

⁵ 2:22-CR-104-MKD

⁶ 2:22-CR-19-MKD

doubled down and wanted to collect the organization's drug debts (which was also relayed by two separate CDs):

1/28/2022 14:55	15096290831	15094186452	One question ... does that mean I can go collect from the book
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CD responded, clarifying, "what book", and the Defendant explicitly stated she was referring to the organization's drug ledgers and that she wanted to "go collect from all Alex's [leader in Mexico] bitch ass people".

1/28/2022 14:57	15094186452	15096290831	What book
1/28/2022 14:56	15096290831	15094186452	I kinda wanna go collect from all Alex's bitch ass people
1/28/2022 14:57	15094186452	15096290831	Go that's on you do it
1/28/2022 14:58	15096290831	15094186452	I'm in a mood ... an I think that we'll really push him out of the picture ... the ledgers
1/28/2022 14:58	15096290831	15094186452	I'm in a mood ... an I think that we'll really push him out of the picture ... the ledgers
1/28/2022 14:58	15096290831	15094186452	They got names dates places amounts ..

The Defendant continued that she went to the South Hill stash house as well as the stash house on Maxwell and kicked open doors, took ammunition, a safe, warrant inventories, etc. She noted that the "Mexican [that] stays at zacks [and] he took the work", which is accurate, as ARREDONDO was arrested leaving Zach WOOD's Maxwell residence with a bag full of drugs, guns, and currency.

1	1/28/2022 15:03	15096290831	15094186452	When I showed up the other dude Steve-O was loading the back of a jeep with another dude ... I kicked in Jose door took ammo and whatever papers I seen and then
2	1/28/2022 15:03	15096290831	15094186452	I kicked in tawny she had a small safe bong took that then I did Steven's door ... Steve-o took a black box when I wasn't looking I grabbed a green safe then
3	1/28/2022 15:03	15096290831	15094186452	Steve-O took whatever else he wanted
4	1/28/2022 15:04	15094186452	15096290831	Fuck so all the work gone
5	1/28/2022 15:04	15094186452	15096290831	Ok fuck it
6	1/28/2022 15:06	15096290831	15094186452	That's jus it the cops never hit the house for some reason ... that's because they got a rat that's super close to the circle... then I was told the other
7	1/28/2022 15:06	15096290831	15094186452	That's jus it the cops never hit the house for some reason ... that's because they got a rat that's super close to the circle... then I was told the other
8	1/28/2022 15:06	15096290831	15094186452	Mexican stays at zacks an he took the work befor Jose left the house with Steven
9	1/28/2022 15:06	15096290831	15094186452	So I went there .. door was already kicked in found a little safe with 1000 bucks then I seen the warrant papers an bounced

The Defendant even opined they had a “rat” in their “circle.”

It is with this backdrop that, about 1 month later, BAUGHMAN stole the organization’s drugs from two runners in Spokane and the leader called on the Defendant to retrieve his drugs. While she was not ultimately successful, it wasn’t for her lack of trying⁷. Of note, however, even this did not dissuade her participation. Rather, in April 2022, the Defendant was located with \$13,000 in U.S. Currency and a firearm (discussed above). Several days later, the Defendant, and many of her belongings, were located at one of the organization’s new stash houses in Spokane when a search warrant was served at that location.

The balance of the 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) factors is particularly difficult in this case. On one hand, the Defendant has no criminal history and comes from a stable

⁷ In basic summary, after shots were fired from the Defendant’s Range Rover at BAUGHMAN’s vehicle, a concerned citizen called 911. Spokane Police responded and attempted to contact BAUGHMAN’s vehicle. He fled on foot and dropped the kitty litter containers full of drugs, which were collected as evidence.

1 family by all accounts. She does have a reported history of substance abuse. On the
2 other hand, the Defendant involved herself with an organization, distributed a
3 tremendous amount of drugs into the community, and relished in the fact she was an
4 enforcer for the organization. On balance, the United States is recommending a 180-
5 month term of incarceration. This is a significant period of time. During that time, if
6 the Defendant wants, she can avail herself of opportunities of sobriety, education,
7 vocational training, etc., and come out of prison a better person for her daughter. On
8 the other hand, the Defendant could take the opportunity for further commit to this
9 lifestyle to the detriment of her family. Of concern, the Defendant told the PSIR
10 author she intends to maintain her relationship with Jody WALLETTTE, who is a
11 significant drug trafficking in his own right. Their continued affiliation does not bode
12 well for her future.

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14 Based on the totality of the circumstances, the United States asks the Court to
15 follow its recommendation.

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17 DATED this 8th day of March 2024.

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21 Vanessa R. Waldref
22 United States Attorney

23 s/ Caitlin Baunsgard
24 Caitlin Baunsgard
25 Assistant United States Attorney
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on March 8, 2024, I electronically filed the foregoing as a restricted document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, and will not email notification of such filing therefore I have emailed a copy of this filing to the following:

Matt Duggan

s/ Caitlin Baunsgard
Caitlin Baunsgard
Assistant United States Attorney